

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1-45. Canceled

1 46 (Currently Amended). A method of attracting customers in a bulletin
2 board supplied from a server connected to a plurality of clients via a
3 network, said server including an article database and a customer
4 information database, customers contributing articles to the article
5 database and also evaluating articles in the article database, the method
6 comprising the steps of:
7 receiving by the server a customer request for displaying the
8 bulletin board transmitted from a client to the server via the network;
9 transmitting by the server to the client via the network bulletin
10 board rendering data;
11 receiving by the server a customer request to enter a page in ~~which~~
12 a the bulletin board is sent ~~from the customer~~ using a the client via the
13 network to the server;
14 transmitting by the server data of existing article headers to the
15 client of the requesting customer;
16 displaying at the client of the requesting customer a list of article
17 titles and headlines;
18 when the requesting customer at the client selects an article to be
19 read from the list displayed, acquiring by the server details of the selected
20 article among articles stored in the article database and transmitting
21 acquired details together with a bulletin board display form to the client of
22 the requesting customer, said bulletin board display form having buttons to
23 be used by customers to vote for and against the article;
24 when a customer votes for or against the displayed article, adding
25 one vote for or against the article to a vote counter for the article in the
26 article database and adding one vote to a vote number counter of the

27 customer who has voted, among the customer information stored in
28 customer information database;
29 electronically giving a customer who contributed the displayed
30 article a predetermined benefit depending on an accumulated count of the
31 vote counter for the article; and
32 electronically giving a customer who evaluates a plurality of
33 articles in the article database a predetermined benefit depending a number
34 of articles evaluated within a predetermined time period.

1 47 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 46, further
2 comprising the step of initially acquiring a customer ID and password
3 when a request to enter a page in which a bulletin board is sent from the
4 customer using a client via the network to the server.

1 48 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 46, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 initially transmitting from the server to the customer client a form
4 for entering a customer ID and password,
5 determining if a customer ID and password have been acquired
6 and, if not, prompting the customer to press an ID registration application
7 button,
8 in response to the ID registration application button being pressed,
9 transmitting from the server to the customer client a form for registering a
10 new customer,
11 receiving by the server new customer information transmitted from
12 the customer client via the network and issuing an ID to the customer, and
13 thereafter, whenever a customer votes for or against an article,
14 correlating the customer with the article in the article database.

1 49 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 46, wherein a
2 bulletin board page sent by the server to a customer client includes a
3 contribution button, the method further comprising the steps of:

4 responding to pressing the contribution button by a customer by
5 transmitting by the server via the network to the customer client a
6 contribution form,
7 receiving by the server a contributed article submitted using th
8 contribution form, and
9 storing the contributed article in the article database.

1 50 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 49, further
2 comprising the step of giving a customer who contributes an article a
3 predetermined benefit depending on a level of reaction from customers
4 who evaluate the article.

1 51 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 50, wherein the
2 predetermined benefit comprises a quantitative value depending on a
3 number of answers from customers who have evaluated the article.

1 52 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 51, wherein the
2 quantitative value is a multivalued quantitative value.

1 53 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 51, further
2 comprising the step of totaling said quantitative value of over a
3 predetermined period and giving the customer who contributed the article
4 said benefit depending on a totaled quantitative value.

1 54 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 46, wherein the
2 server provides a plurality of bulletin boards for respective predetermined
3 categories, the method further comprising the step of prompting a
4 customer at a client to select from among said plurality of bulletin boards.

1 55 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 46, further
2 comprising the step of rejecting by the server an evaluation of an article
3 from a customer who has previously evaluated said article.